

**BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001**

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**Complaint on Sunday  
and Holiday Collections**

**Docket No. C2001-1**

**DOUGLAS F. CARLSON  
MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME  
TO RESPOND TO POSTAL SERVICE OBJECTIONS**

**June 15, 2001**

On May 21, 2001, I filed interrogatories DFC/USPS-1-18.<sup>1</sup> On May 25, 2001, I filed interrogatory DFC/USPS-19.<sup>2</sup> Interrogatory DFC/USPS-19 requested data from the Postal Service's Collection Box Management System database. On May 29, 2001, I filed interrogatories DFC/USPS-20-21,<sup>3</sup> which inquired into functions of the Collection Box Management System, including the history reports that show the time at which each collection box actually was collected.

On May 24, 2001, the Postal Service moved for an extension of time to respond to interrogatories DFC/USPS-1-18.<sup>4</sup> By requesting that the interrogatories be treated as if they were filed on May 29, 2001, the Postal Service effectively requested an eight-day extension of the deadline for responding.

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<sup>1</sup> Douglas F. Carlson Interrogatories to the United States Postal Service (DFC/USPS-1-18), filed May 21, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas F. Carlson Interrogatory to the United States Postal Service (DFC/USPS-19), filed May 25, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Douglas F. Carlson Interrogatories to the United States Postal Service (DFC/USPS-20-21), filed May 29, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Motion of the United States Postal Service for Extension of Time to Respond to Pending Discovery, filed May 24, 2001.

On June 4, 2001, the Postal Service filed an objection to interrogatories DFC/USPS-19–21.<sup>5</sup> Also on June 4, 2001, the presiding officer granted the Postal Service an extension of time until June 12, 2001, to respond to my first set of interrogatories, DFC/USPS-1–18.<sup>6</sup> In this ruling, the presiding officer also granted the Postal Service an extension until June 8, 2001, to object to DFC/USPS-19, but the Postal Service nevertheless filed the objection on June 4, 2001. POR C2001-1/2. The presiding officer noted a possibility of extending the discovery deadline if the Postal Service's delay in responding to my interrogatories prompted me to move for an extension of the discovery deadline, and the Postal Service agreed not to oppose such a motion. *Id.*

Rule 26(d) requires me to file a motion to compel the Postal Service to answer interrogatories DFC/USPS-19–21 within 14 days after the Postal Service filed its objection. Therefore, my motion to compel would be due on June 18, 2001.

In responding to my first set of interrogatories on June 12, 2001, the Postal Service apparently filed well over 100 pages of documents, many of which are in library references not posted on the Commission's Web site.<sup>7</sup> Postal counsel sent those documents to me, but I have not received them yet. My initial review of the interrogatory responses indicates that the Postal Service provided direct and helpful answers to some of the interrogatories. However, the interrogatory responses raise new issues. For example, on Monday, July 3, 2000, the Triboro District in New York performed collections according to the Saturday collection schedule rather than the Monday collection schedule. Response to DFC/USPS-14. Other new issues probably reside in the large quantities of documents that the Postal Service provided. Alternatively, perhaps

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<sup>5</sup> Objection of the United States Postal Service to Carlson Interrogatories DFC/USPS-19–21, filed June 4, 2001.

<sup>6</sup> POR C2001-1/2, filed June 4, 2001.

<sup>7</sup> Responses of the United States Postal Service to Carlson Interrogatories (DFC/USPS-1–18), filed June 12, 2001, and Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of Library References USPS-LR-C2001-1/1, 2, and 3, filed June 4, 2001.

these documents will answer follow-up questions that I presently am inclined to submit and will obviate the need for further discovery.

Data from the Collection Box Management System database — the subject of DFC/USPS-19–21 — may provide the information that will be necessary for me to prove certain portions of my case. For example, to show the harm to postal customers of performing a Saturday collection schedule in the Triboro District on Monday, July 3, 2000, I may need to know the weekday and Saturday collection times of collection boxes in the Triboro District so that I can compare the weekday and Saturday collection times, demonstrate the number of hours apart the weekday and Saturday collection times are, and count the number of boxes affected. Presently, no evidence exists in the record describing how many hours earlier the typical Saturday collection time is compared to the typical weekday collection time, so I am unable to show data proving that collecting boxes on Monday, July 3, 2000, using a Saturday collection schedule would have harmed numerous postal customers.

As another example, the Postal Service admits that some collection boxes show a holiday collection time.<sup>8</sup> I will need to analyze where these boxes are located. If they are located in areas where no holiday processing is provided, a problem exists. If they are located in areas where holiday processing occurs regularly, no problem exists. The data that will answer these questions reside in the Collection Box Management System database.

Finally, the responses to DFC/USPS-13 and -14 reveal that the information provided so far on the extent to which collections on holiday eves are performed prior to the posted collection time may not be comprehensive, even though this information reflects the results of apparently diligent searching. Thus, I may be entitled to probe history files in the Collection Box Management System database to analyze data revealing the events that actually occurred on holiday eves in recent years — events that may have occurred without the knowledge of

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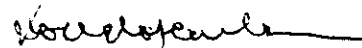
<sup>8</sup> DFC/USPS-1.

staff at Postal Service headquarters but that are nevertheless relevant to this complaint case.

For these reasons, I may need to move to compel responses to interrogatories DFC/USPS-19-21. However, I will be unable fully to assess the need for this information until I have had a reasonable amount of time to review the documents provided on June 12, 2001. Since the interrogatory responses originally were due on June 4, 2001, I effectively have lost eight days during which I otherwise would have been able to review these interrogatory responses and then evaluate the continuing need for the information requested in DFC/USPS-19-21. Therefore, I request an eight-day extension to June 26, 2001, to file a motion to compel a response to interrogatories DFC/USPS-19-21. The Postal Service does not oppose this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 15, 2001



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DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon the required parties in accordance with section 12 of the *Rules of Practice*.



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DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

June 15, 2001  
Santa Cruz, California